

A Professional View of Forestry Issues in Oregon

Position Statements of the Oregon Society of American Foresters



February 2002

Dear Oregonian,

This booklet contains position statements adopted by the **Oregon Society of American Foresters (OSAF)**. The 1,200 Oregon Society of American Foresters members include the field foresters, researchers, administrators and educators who help manage the 29.5 million acres of public and private forests in Oregon. We work for federal, state or local governments; for universities; for small and large landowners; and for small businesses and large corporations. We hold a variety of professional viewpoints, all of which have been reflected upon during the development and approval of the position statements included in this booklet.

Gifford Pinchot and six other pioneer foresters founded the **Society of American Foresters (SAF)** in 1900. The Society, with about 18,000 members, is the national organization representing the forestry profession in the United States and includes public and private practitioners, researchers, administrators, educators and forestry students. The Oregon Society is willing and able to assist policy and decision makers in dealing with forest resource issues and challenges. We have prepared this booklet to make these position statements available to a broad audience. For additional information about the Society, see the **SAF Code of Ethics** on page 14, and **About SAF** on page 15.



The Mission of the Society of American Foresters is to:

- advance the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry;
- enhance the competency of its members;
- establish professional excellence; and
- use the knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic of the profession to ensure the continued health and use of forest ecosystems and the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society.

OSAF encourages you to contact a Society of American Foresters professional at **www.forestry.org**, or give us a call at 503.224.8046, whenever an informed perspective on forestry matters would be useful.



Clearcutting _____ Page 4

The Oregon Society of American Foresters supports the careful, scientifically based use of clearcutting as a silvicultural tool to create desired conditions in forests. Current state and federal laws include measures to control potential impacts of clearcutting. Professional foresters and other natural resource experts can further ensure that clearcutting will be applied with proper consideration of environmental, economic, and social concerns.

Use of Chemical Pesticides in the Forest _____ Page 5

Chemical pesticides are one of several management alternatives for use to control undesirable forest plants, insects, and disease. The Oregon Society of American Foresters supports the use of forest pesticides registered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) when used in accordance with the product label and all applicable laws, and when they are identified as the appropriate Integrated Pest Management tool to control harmful forest pests or unwanted competing vegetation.

Forest Health _____ Page 6

The Oregon Society of American Foresters believe foresters have an extremely important role in the recovery of unhealthy forests. All methods for preventing and treating forest health problems should be available for consideration by professional foresters. These methods include: salvage of dead and dying timber, thinning overly dense forests, and the reintroduction of fire to the ecosystem. The Society believes professional foresters must be provided the flexibility so that decisions make good sense when applied on the ground.

Private Property Rights _____ Page 7

The Oregon Society of American Foresters supports policies that encourage investments in forests for the future. The benefits that forests provide depend on the resources that the landowner and the public commit to sustain and enhance future forest capabilities. A number of factors discourage private investment, including uncertainty about the future, regulations that weaken returns to landowners, tax policies that do not address the long-term nature of growing timber and population pressures that create conditions leading to conflict with forest management activities. The Oregon Society of American Foresters supports policy approaches that emphasize education for the general public and incentives for private landowners to provide public benefits.

Re-authorization and Amendment of the Endangered Species Act _____ Page 8

The Oregon Society of American Foresters believes the conservation of species and ecosystems is critically important to society and especially the forestry profession. However, the Society believes the Endangered Species Act (ESA) needs to be amended to protect the rights of the people of the United States as well as protecting plants and animals in jeopardy. Several recommendations appear at the end of this statement to clarify our position.

Fish and Riparian Forests _____ Page 10

The Oregon Society of American Foresters believes that current state and federal restrictions on forest practices in riparian areas in Oregon will benefit fish habitat over time. In some locations, active management of riparian areas can accelerate desired improvements in streamside conditions and fish habitat. Because fish numbers can be greatly affected by many human and natural factors other than forestry, proposals for further modifications on forest practices should be based on objective, scientific analyses of these factors and of the effectiveness of current forest practice requirements. If significant changes in land use practices on private property are desired to achieve public benefits, policy approaches other than regulation (e.g., education, incentives) deserve careful consideration, particularly when desired practices address impacts from historical rather than current practices.

Forestry's Role in the Protection of Pacific Salmon Habitat in Forested Watersheds _____ Page 11

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) endorses the need to protect threatened or endangered salmonid stocks as intended by state and federal endangered species acts. The SAF desires to see Pacific salmonid species recover to sustainable populations. The SAF favors a balanced approach to endangered species protection that takes into account sound and reputable science, as well as the economic and social implications of any management or recovery plan. The SAF believes that habitat quality, over which foresters have some influence, is only one of many factors affecting salmonid recovery.

Forestry and Landslides _____ Page 12

The Oregon Society of American Foresters (OSAF) believes that the relationship between forestry and landslides is a complex scientific, land management and public policy issue. Forest management and other land use practices (e.g., clearing and construction of highways, homes and power lines) may effect landslide frequency in unstable terrain. However, significant landslide hazards will exist in these areas whether or not such practices occur, which points to the importance of identifying hazardous locations for people and property. Because the precise probability and location of landslides cannot be accurately predicted, minimizing the presence of people and property in unstable terrain is a key policy consideration.

Clearcutting

Position The Oregon Society of American Foresters supports the careful, scientifically based use of clearcutting as a silvicultural tool to create desired conditions in forests. Current state and federal laws include measures to control potential impacts of clearcutting. Professional foresters and other natural resource experts can further ensure that clearcutting will be applied with proper consideration of environmental, economic, and social concerns.

Issue Clearcutting involves removal of nearly all standing trees within a limited area for the purpose of regenerating a new stand. The term is used by some of the public to describe unregulated logging or forest clearing. However, professional foresters use the term in the context of science based forest management, and as one of the most successful methods prescribed to harvest and then regenerate a forest of shade intolerant trees. In addition, Oregon and federal laws now limit clearcut size, require that stream buffers and wildlife trees be left, and require prompt reforestation. In recent years, clearcutting in Oregon has constituted less than 25 percent of the harvested acreage, the remainder being selectively cut or thinned.

Background Oregon has many important tree species with ecological characteristics that respond best to clearcutting. Douglas-fir, for example, regenerates and grows best in full sun. Before European settlement, most forests in the region were naturally established after major disturbances, particularly wildfire. These fires often cleared large areas of tree and plant cover, reduced disease and insect pests, and exposed mineral soil seedbeds. While there are differences between clearcutting and wildfire or other natural disturbances, the ecology of many native species are dependent on openings in the forest.

Clearcuts in Oregon are a temporary condition as the Oregon Forest Practices Act requires successful reforestation immediately after harvest.

Individual tree species have varied silvicultural requirements for the amount of direct sun required for successful reproduction and growth. Therefore, harvest methods other than clearcutting for those trees requiring full sun usually change the species composition to a new mix of species other than those that are found in natural stands west of the Cascade Range.

New clearcuts are unattractive to most people, and this contributes to the perception that clearcutting is harmful to the environment. There is no doubt that the practice seems drastic, but the changes are temporary.

Clearcutting is often the most efficient and economical way to harvest and regenerate many of our native tree species. The efficiency of clearcut logging is a side benefit to preparing the site for the reestablishment of a shade intolerant species. Treatments to prepare logged sites for reforestation, such as slash piling, weed control, etc., which help ensure plantation success and reduce failures, are also more efficiently applied in clearcut areas. Tree planting and young plantation management practices, such as pest control, fertilizer, etc., also show better effectiveness and cost advantages when concentrated in clearcut areas. Clearcutting also provides habitat for many plant and animal species that depend on forest openings. In addition, it can help in the local control of insects, diseases, and wildfire.

Clearcutting is not appropriate in all situations, but where suitable and applied carefully by skilled professionals, it is a proven harvest and regeneration method for many areas of the Pacific Northwest. Careful planning and application of harvest and reforestation practices, in compliance with state and federal regulations, are key to avoiding negative impacts of clearcutting while realizing its benefits. Professional foresters are trained to understand both the risks and benefits of clearcutting. Working with other resource professionals, foresters can provide essential guidance for its proper application in meeting landowner objectives and broad public goals.



Originally adopted by member referendum of the Oregon Society of American Foresters (OSAF) on December 6, 1995. Revised and adopted with a 95 percent approval rate by member referendum of the OSAF, December 11, 1998. This statement will expire December 11, 2003, unless after thorough review it is renewed by the OSAF.

Use of Chemical Pesticides in the Forest

Position Chemical pesticides are one of several management alternatives for use to control undesirable forest plants, insects, and disease. The Oregon Society of American Foresters supports the use of forest pesticides registered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) when used in accordance with the product label and all applicable laws, and when they are identified as the appropriate Integrated Pest Management tool to control harmful forest pests or unwanted competing vegetation.

Issue Chemical pesticides are used to control forest plants, insects, animals and diseases to enhance and protect the health and productivity of forests. The use of these pesticides in forest management continues to be controversial with some still believing that they should be further regulated or even prohibited. However, science and professional practice in the past has demonstrated that proper use of pesticides can be a safe and effective method of controlling insects, animals, diseases, and vegetation.

Background Competing vegetation and epidemic levels of insects, diseases, and animal damage are significant impediments to forest health and productivity. Competing vegetation can impair the establishment and growth of desired forest trees. Forest insects threaten forest health by weakening or killing otherwise healthy trees, or by serving as carriers of diseases which attack trees. Diseases can kill individual or groups of trees and even linger in large areas of the soil to prevent future trees from reaching maturity. Pest management and vegetation control help to achieve a broad range of additional benefits such as management of watersheds, enhancement of wildlife habitat and forage production for livestock, and the control of exotic and noxious species.

The federal government regulates pesticide use under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). FIFRA regulations require that all pesticide products be registered by the EPA before sale and/or use. Prior to registration of a pesticide by the EPA, the product is tested for its potential to cause many different health and safety effects such as cancer, infertility, sterility, birth defects, nerve damage, genetic mutations, or chronic disease. The Oregon Forest Practices Act

also regulates the use of chemicals in forests by requiring buffers next to water sources.

In 1988, further regulation was approved that requires the EPA to register all pesticide active ingredients originally registered before November 1, 1984. In Oregon, licensing and the continuing education of applicators and monitoring by the Department of Forestry will ensure compliance and encourage the proper use and application of forest pesticides. The amount of chemical pesticides used on forest land is very small compared to agriculture, right-of-way, urban, and domestic use. Newer pesticides in use today are far less hazardous to the environment than older ones.

Chemical pesticides comprise only one of many tools available for vegetation management and pest control. Prescribed fire and mechanical, silvicultural, and biological methods, alone or in combination, are also effective pest and vegetative management tools. Using an Integrated Pest Management concept, the most relevant and effective method or methods can be used (either singularly or in combination) to achieve the desired result in the long run, for both the lowest economical and environmental cost. Forest chemical pesticides are an important, effective, and safe management tool that should be kept and utilized, as necessary, to ensure healthy and productive forests.



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Forest Health

Position The Oregon Society of American Foresters believe foresters have an extremely important role in the recovery of unhealthy forests.

All methods for preventing and treating forest health problems should be available for consideration by professional foresters. These methods include: salvage of dead and dying timber, thinning overly dense forests, and the reintroduction of fire to the ecosystem.

The Society believes professional foresters must be provided the flexibility so that decisions make good sense when applied on the ground.

Issue The most significant issue foresters will respond to in the future will be maintaining and restoring healthy forests. This is a controversial subject because forest health means different things to different people. How one defines forest health is based on one's value system. Many natural events like fire, windthrow, and insects are important factors in the forest ecosystem. These events have shaped our forests in the past, but the severity of wildfire and insect populations today and tree numbers brought about by 100 years of fire exclusion and past management practices have created forests that are beyond an acceptable range from ecological and economic perspectives.

Success of any forest health program will likely not be seen for years. It took decades and a variety of factors to bring these forests into their current state and it will require decades of commitment to bring them back within their historic range of conditions.

Background A desired state of forest health is a condition where biotic and abiotic influences on the forest (e.g., pests, atmospheric deposition, silvicultural treatments, and harvesting practices) do not threaten current or future resource management objectives or options. A decade-long drought, years of insect infestations, and past management actions have all created forest conditions that are at risk from severe wildfires and further insect and disease epidemics. In Oregon, the spruce budworm defoliated over four million acres by 1986. Budworm defoliates Douglas-fir, spruce, and true fir trees in forests that are too dense. Although defoliation does not kill a tree, other pests invade a weakened forest and kill many of the stressed trees.

The results of mountain pine beetle damage has been more severe because these infestations result in almost certain death to infected forests.

Together, the spruce budworm and the mountain pine beetle have placed several million acres in Oregon at risk of catastrophic fires.

The fires which have burned for the past few years have become increasingly intense and damaging to resource values that might otherwise be protected in a healthy forest. Loss of fish habitat important to species such as the bull trout and salmon, which are currently listed as threatened or endangered species, has resulted from wildfires burning in the west. In 1994, the nation experienced the worst fire season in decades with the loss of over four million acres on federal and non-federal land. This massive loss of resources drew the public's attention. Weather conditions since then have reduced the acres burned but the danger still remains.

In the past, federal foresters salvaged dead and dying timber to control the spread of insects and disease, and re-establish a new forest. Presently, public controversy has reduced the ability of federal agencies to salvaging much of the dead and dying timber. This is contributing not only to increasing the danger to the affected stands and the loss of federal timber sale receipts estimated to be worth an excess of \$1.6 billion, but also to the potential destruction of adjacent healthy forests. They are also having problems conducting commercial timber sales to reduce overstocking in stands and budget allocations are impacting efforts to control overstocking in precommercial stands. Pressure is building for similar restrictions on private and state land.

To ensure healthy forests on private and public land, foresters need to be able to maintain flexibility and be able to use all relevant tools.



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Private Property Rights

Position The Oregon Society of American Foresters supports policies that encourage investments in forests for the future. The benefits that forests provide depend on the resources that the landowner and the public commit to sustain and enhance future forest capabilities. A number of factors discourage private investment, including uncertainty about the future, regulations that weaken returns to landowners, tax policies that do not address the long-term nature of growing timber and population pressures that create conditions leading to conflict with forest management activities.

The Oregon Society of American Foresters supports policy approaches that emphasize education for the general public and incentives for private landowners to provide public benefits.

Issue In recent years, the application of federal, state and local regulations has increasingly impacted landowners' abilities to manage their forest land. The effects of listing the northern spotted owl and certain fish species as threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) has heightened the awareness. Lawsuits have been carried all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court in an attempt to clarify the law.

Background The right to own and use private property is one of the cornerstones of American democracy. This is clearly stated in the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution which provides, "nor shall private property be taken without just compensation." The Constitution also allows government to pass laws that promote health, safety and general welfare on private forest lands.

The right to own land came to us from our English heritage of common law which assumed good stewardship as a part of ownership. In Oregon, that stewardship responsibility has been defined for forest owners by statewide land planning laws and the Forest Practices Act. In spite of this, heated debate continues in Oregon and elsewhere in the nation, as various laws and regulations are offered that further erode the rights of private landowners.

An example has been the debate over the Spotted Owl Recovery Plan in the Northwest. At issue is the "taking" and "harm" language in the law and

how it is being interpreted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Private landowners have been threatened with federal prosecution if their management activities would modify a listed species' habitat.

Currently, private landowners have only two alternatives if they wish to alter habitat; develop "No Take" Management Plans, or develop Habitat Conservation Plans that result in the issuance of incidental take permits. Both options are costly, time consuming, and likely not feasible for small landowners with limited resources.

On June 29, 1995, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an opinion upholding the Secretary of Interior in the Oregon Sweet Home case. The Court found that the Secretary's regulations defining harm were, indeed, the intent of Congress when it passed the ESA in 1973 and modified it in 1982. This decision is likely to influence the debate over reauthorization of the ESA which is currently before Congress.

Over the past 20 years, most every term of the Congress, and most sessions of the Oregon Legislature, have contained a variety of bills that significantly limit private landowner rights in order to achieve public benefits. The State Legislature, as well as the U.S. Congress, are looking at ways of compensating landowners for the ceding of their rights to the public. The outcome of these debates are of interest to forest landowners and the public in general.



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Re-authorization and Amendment of the Endangered Species Act

Position The Oregon Society of American Foresters believes the conservation of species and ecosystems is critically important to society and especially the forestry profession. However, the Society believes the Endangered Species Act (ESA) needs to be amended to protect the rights of the people of the United States as well as protecting plants and animals in jeopardy. Several recommendations appear at the end of this statement to clarify our position.

Issue At issue is the Act's re-authorization due since 1992. Re-authorization of the Act has been delayed several times.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) was enacted to provide a means of conserving habitat upon which threatened and endangered species depend, as well as saving the species from extinction. Recent listings of species as threatened or endangered (T & E) have sharpened the debate on the goals, provisions, implementation and consequences of the Act.

The listing of the red-cockaded woodpecker in the south and the northern spotted owl in the west, have intensified the discussion on the ESA because protection of both species has affected forest management options on a region wide basis. More recent listings of Columbia River salmon stocks, the marbled murrelet and the governor's plan to recover coho salmon have increased the debate in Oregon.

The Act does not appear to be working as the original authors had anticipated; it has resulted in severe economic impacts, especially in many rural communities; and has often been used for purposes for which it was never intended. A number of lawsuits have been filed over the years to stop development even though there was no clear effect on T & E species. The science used to make T & E decisions has often been questioned.

Background The ESA is widely regarded as one of the most powerful environmental laws in the nation. Under the ESA, a species is listed as either threatened or endangered according to its risk of extinction, with equal protection given to both. The list of T & E plant and animal species stood at 1135 in May of 1998 with several thousand that are candidates for listing.

The law requires the Secretary of the Interior list species based solely upon the best scientific and commercial data available. After a species is

listed, the Secretary of the Interior must develop and implement a recovery plan for each species.

The recovery process is the heart of the ESA, since the final goal of the law is to recover T & E species to the point where they can be "delisted." The ESA requires that "critical habitat" be designated concurrently with the species listing; this is one of the most controversial aspects of the ESA. Critical habitat is the area essential to the conservation of the listed species. Designation is based on the best scientific data at hand and consideration of economic and other relevant impacts. Critical habitat must be managed to avoid "adverse modification" that might further threaten the species. Often this means many forest management options such as timber harvesting may be limited or curtailed on lands designated as critical habitat.

The ESA makes it unlawful for any person to "take" any listed species. A take is defined as any means "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulations state that significant habitat modification, where it actually kills or injures wildlife, constitutes a taking under the law. On June 29, 1995, the U.S. Supreme Court, in its opinion on the Oregon Sweet Home case, found in favor of the Secretary of the Interior.

The debate has now shifted to Congress as it considers re-authorization and amendment of the ESA. At issue is private property rights under the 5th Amendment to the Constitution. While few people question the importance of conserving threatened and endangered species, there is widespread agreement that the Act does not always achieve its goal.

The debate among resource professionals is about what would make the Act more effective and the appropriate weight of social and economic factors.



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Re-authorization and Amendment of the Endangered Species Act (cont'd)

Recommendations On December 8, 1997, the National Council of SAF adopted a position with several recommendations to improve the law. Major recommendations are summarized as follows:

- Create an independent Select Biological Committee, comprised of federal and state government, university and private sector scientists who are not involved with listing activities, to review listing recommendations prior to listing in the federal register.
- Change the makeup of the Endangered Species Committee to include high-level natural resource and social science professionals from federal departments. The Secretary of the Interior should remain accountable for exemption decisions.
- Specify that recovery plans address the biological feasibility and consequences, economic efficiency, economic equity, social acceptability, and operational and administrative practicality of actions aimed at promoting the recovery of listed species. The ESA should require the federal government to seek more participation from state agencies, local authorities and private landowners, who may often be sources of extensive information on candidate and listed species.
- Recovery plans should contain clearly defined objectives, time frames and criteria that lead to measurable goals for recovery, monitoring, and ultimately delisting of the species.
- Critical habitat designation is a key component and should emerge from the recovery plan process. The process should be completed within one year of listing of the species. To expedite this, special teams should be established around a core group of experienced recovery process planners and scientists.
- While recovery plans focus on public lands, a program to stimulate government-private partnerships should be developed and implemented where private lands are critical to the recovery effort.
- A revised ESA should encourage stewardship on private lands through incentive programs designed for various land use and management activities. These could include easements, tax incentives, cost sharing grants, and accelerated technical assistance.
- Private landowners who lose management options on their lands in order to conserve T&E species should receive compensation in some form. Species recovery on private lands is a public responsibility.
- Encourage the use of Habitat Conservation Plans, and codifying the Clinton Administration's "no surprises" policy and safe harbor agreements.
- Citizen suit provisions under section 11(g) of the ESA should be limited to actions against the appropriate federal agencies, since they are responsible for landowner compliance.



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Fish and Riparian Forests

Position The Oregon Society of American Foresters believes that current state and federal restrictions on forest practices in riparian areas in Oregon will benefit fish habitat over time. In some locations, active management of riparian areas can accelerate desired improvements in stream-side conditions and fish habitat. Because fish numbers can be greatly affected by many human and natural factors other than forestry, proposals for further modifications on forest practices should be based on objective, scientific analyses of these factors and of the effectiveness of current forest practice requirements. If significant changes in land use practices on private property are desired to achieve public benefits, policy approaches other than regulation (e.g., education, incentives) deserve careful consideration, particularly when desired practices address impacts from historical rather than current practices.

Issue Populations of many fish, especially wild anadromous (ocean migrating) species, have declined in recent years in the Pacific Northwest. Riparian forests along streams in the region are known to provide important ecological functions that benefit habitat of many fish species. Because timber harvesting and other forest practices may temporarily alter some of these functions, concerns have been raised that these practices cause unacceptable impacts to fish habitat and that further restrictions are needed.

Background Declining populations of salmon and other anadromous fish in the Pacific Northwest have increased public concerns about management practices that may affect fish habitat. Forest practices are of particular interest because many anadromous fish spawn and rear in forest streams, and important influences of riparian forests on aquatic habitats are now more widely recognized and understood. For example, trees that fall into streams can help create deep pools that provide key rearing habitat, and riparian vegetation supplies leaves and other material that help sustain the insects that fish feed upon.

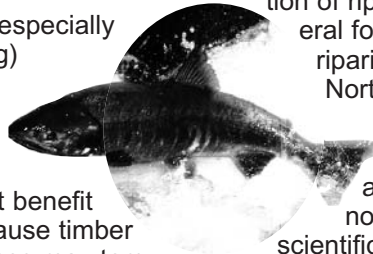
Anadromous fish migrate over vast distances beyond forest lands and live for extended periods in a variety of other habitats. Their numbers can be greatly influenced by many non-forest management factors, such as hatchery practices, agriculture activities, dam construction, and urban development. Ocean occurrences, harvest by humans and natural predators, and weather cycles that

affect food supplies can be very important.

Although the relative effects of these diverse human and natural influences have not been closely examined, declines in fish numbers in some relatively pristine forest watersheds in the region do indicate that forest practices are only part of a complex array of environmental influences.

Forest practices clearly have the potential to alter the aquatic environment. In the past, poorly conducted logging practices were shown to cause erosion, stream sedimentation, and warmer water temperatures. Habitat was also reduced when woody debris was removed from many streams in the mistaken belief that it was harmful to fish. Such findings led to implementation of the Oregon Forest Practices Act in 1972, and to major rule revisions in 1994 that markedly increased protection of riparian areas on private lands. On federal forest land, additional restrictions for riparian areas were adopted under the Northwest Forest Plan.

The need for further restrictions of forest practices in Oregon's riparian areas to improve fish populations has not been clearly supported by objective scientific analyses, and such limits may delay desired improvements in fish habitat in some streams. In the absence of major wildfires, for example, natural additions of woody debris to streams and regeneration of desirable riparian tree species can take decades. Active management can accelerate habitat benefits where they are a high priority, by carefully applying professional forestry, fisheries, and hydrology expertise. Current riparian management restrictions that retain valuable timber and affect adjacent operations already represent a significant cost to many private landowners in Oregon. Where fish habitat improvements are needed to help address impacts of historical activities or current environmental influences other than forest practices, policies that encourage education and landowner incentives deserve careful consideration when public benefits are desired from private lands.



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Forestry's Role in the Protection of Pacific Salmon Habitat in Forested Watersheds

Position The Society of American Foresters (SAF) endorses the need to protect threatened or endangered salmonid stocks as intended by state and federal endangered species acts. The SAF desires to see Pacific salmonid species recover to sustainable populations. The SAF favors a balanced approach to endangered species protection that takes into account sound and reputable science, as well as the economic and social implications of any management or recovery plan. The SAF believes that habitat quality, over which foresters have some influence, is only one of many factors affecting salmonid recovery.

Existing voluntary and regulatory programs are effective throughout much of the vast area occupied by Pacific salmonid populations. Where these programs are not effective SAF strongly encourages resource management and regulatory agencies to work together cooperatively to ensure Best Management Practices (BMPs) are redesigned to work properly. The SAF advocates the use of proven forest practices in all forestry operations, not just in those areas that have been designated as critical habitat for Pacific salmonids or any other aquatic or terrestrial species. The SAF supports the use of BMPs as defined in the Clean Water Act (section 319). The SAF believes Endangered Species Act (ESA) recovery plans for salmonids should recognize state forest practice programs and the efforts of states to implement the Clean Water Act through state water quality management programs. Federal management and regulatory agencies are encouraged to work cooperatively with the states and landowners to protect water quality and fish habitat. Examples of cooperative efforts include the coastal salmon restoration initiatives in Oregon and the development of Habitat Conservation Plans by companies and state forestry agencies.

Issue Declines in certain salmon populations can be attributed to many factors, only one of which is historic timber harvesting. While past management practices have affected the salmon resource, modern voluntary and regulatory programs are mitigating existing and potential negative impacts effectively in many western watersheds. Attempts to apply generalized regulations on all salmonid habitats ignores scientific research and monitoring data and uses isolated

worst case scenarios to generate minimum standards. There is still much to do in all the factors affecting salmon to revitalize this essential resource.

Background Protection and recovery of anadromous salmonids will require changes in all of the activities affecting these fish throughout their complex life cycle, including forest management. States in the Pacific region have had 25 years of experience implementing and modifying BMPs to protect salmonids under the Clean Water Act. The SAF believes that the width of stream side zones and the forest practice standards that apply within them should be based on local conditions through the process of designing and modifying BMPs.

During their complex life histories, Pacific salmonids are affected by many factors other than forest management. Contributing to tile historic declines in anadromous fish stocks are combinations of urbanization, dams, diversions, habitat modification, hatchery operations and fish harvest. Natural fluctuations in climate and ocean conditions also effect salmonid populations by effecting food supplies and increased predation.

To insure salmonid recovery, BMPs providing guidelines for proper construction and maintenance of roads, retention and recruitment of streamside forest cover and future supplies of large woody debris need to be implemented throughout the Pacific coast region. Specific BMPs, as well as state and local rules, have, in some watersheds, greatly reduced impacts to all aquatic species.

Streamside management zones, or riparian buffers, are another key forest practice consideration. These zones are crucial to the protection and enhancement of water resources. Managed properly they can improve water quality, provide shade, and support essential habitat for a wide range of plants and animals.

SAF members will continue to work collaboratively to develop, implement, and monitor proven forest practices to enhance the anadromous fish habitat in the forested areas of the Pacific coast region. They will also continue to work with allied natural resource professionals, interested citizens, groups, and policy makers to protect and recover Pacific salmonid populations, and manage them at sustainable levels.



This is a summary of a statement adopted by the Executive Committees of Society units in Alaska, Idaho, northern California, Oregon, southern California, and Washington on September 8, 1998. This statement will expire in five years unless jointly revised or extended by these Society of American Foresters State Societies. The complete copy of the regional salmon position statement, along with a detailed list of references and additional readings, can be viewed at www.forestry.org

Forestry and Landslides

Position The Oregon Society of American Foresters (OSAF) believes that the relationship between forestry and landslides is a complex scientific, land management and public policy issue.

Forest management and other land use practices (e.g., clearing and construction of highways, homes and power lines) may effect landslide frequency in unstable terrain. However, significant landslide hazards will exist in these areas whether or not such practices occur, which points to the importance of identifying hazardous locations for people and property. Because the precise probability and location of landslides cannot be accurately predicted, minimizing the presence of people and property in unstable terrain is a key policy consideration.

OSAF supports 1) Carefully designed research to further study and compare the occurrence and effects of natural and human-caused landslides; 2) continued efforts by professionals with appropriate expertise to interpret current research and field experience and identify and implement management measures that minimize landslides and their impacts, and 3) public policy efforts to reduce landslide impacts through broad measures that address not only forest management, but also other practices on forest lands, hazard warnings and land use planning.

Issue Public awareness and concern about landslides on forest lands in Oregon increased greatly following the major storms of 1996, which triggered many slides. Claims were widely heard that forest practices caused many of these landslides, and advocacy groups called for such measures as a ban on clearcutting. The Oregon Board of Forestry (BOF), the State Legislature, and the Governor each took significant steps to address public concerns.

Background Oregon weather during recent years will be remembered for its extremes. In early 1996, above average snowpack, torrential rains and very wet soils combined to set the stage for the worst flooding in 30 or more years. Another record setting storm occurred in November 1996. Hundreds of streams experienced flood events ranging from 10-year to over 100-year recurrence intervals. Together these storms produced thousands of landslides causing extensive damage to roads and structures. The November storm caused 5 deaths.

A public debate followed, including pointing blame at clearcutting steep slopes and road construction practices. The storm related deaths in November heightened the debate. A number of agencies made assessments of storm damage, including the Forest Service, Bureau Land Management (BLM), Pacific Northwest Research Station and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). The BOF asked private forest owners to voluntarily suspend harvesting in unstable areas for two years while further studies were conducted. Bills to deal with the issue were

considered by the '97 legislature and one passed (SB 1211).

Findings and Conclusions Studies have shown that land management activities, such as timber harvest and road construction can influence the frequency and size of landslides. Most studies of landslide occurrence have relied on aerial surveys that have seriously underestimated their occurrence in forested areas. Recent ground based inventories have shown that many landslides occurring in forested areas go undetected in aerial surveys, because of vegetative cover. These ground based studies have shown that landslide occurrence in harvest areas under ten years of age to be about 1.5 to 2 times the rate found in forested areas. A recent ODF study showed that after 10 years the rate drops below the level found in 100-year-old and older forests.

Forest roads have been an important source of management-related landslides. However, during the past two decades, changes in road design, location and construction practices have been made to reduce such landslides. Preliminary research and considerable field experience indicate that such improvements have significantly reduced landslide impacts. Continued emphasis on forest roads is still needed, especially older roads that may need to be retrofitted to today's standards or decommissioned.

Landslides are a natural process that can have some positive ecological benefits, such as renewal of supplies of large woody debris and gravels that are necessary for healthy aquatic systems. The shallow soils, steep terrain, and high rainfall found in many areas of the Oregon Coast Range and Cascades are fertile grounds for landslides. The natural frequency and other characteristics of landslides vary considerably with location within these broad areas.

Banning harvesting and road construction in steep terrain would reduce some landslides in the near term but would not eliminate them over longer periods of time. While much is known about landslides, there remain substantial limitations in our ability to accurately predict landslide frequency and location. OSAF is encouraged by on-going studies, but new knowledge from carefully designed research, is needed to improve our ability to predict landslides and their impacts and to effectively apply this knowledge to policy and land management decisions.

Landslides will continue to occur in Oregon. It remains vital to expand and apply sound information and knowledge about landslide processes to both minimize human influences on landslide occurrence and reduce impacts on people when they occur. Also essential is to educate policy makers and the public about existing areas of landslide hazards, so that informed decisions can be made.



Position approved October 10, 1997 by the Oregon Society of American Foresters (OSAF) Executive Committee for member referendum. Adopted with 92 percent approval rate by member referendum on December 19, 1997. This statement will expire on December 19, 2002, unless after thorough review it is renewed by the OSAF.

References

For readers who may wish more information on the topics covered in the briefing papers, following is a list of references:

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Other References

Beuter, John H. 1998. Revised and Updated Legacy & Promise: Oregon's Forests and Wood Products Industry. Oregon Forest Resources Institute, Portland OR. 56p.

Sessions, John (editor) et al. 1990. Timber for Oregon's Tomorrow: 1989 Update. Forest Research Lab, Oregon State University, Corvallis OR. 183p.

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SAF Code of Ethics

Preamble

Service to society is the cornerstone of any profession. The profession of forestry serves society by fostering stewardship of the world's forests. Because forests provide valuable resources and perform critical ecological functions, they are vital to the wellbeing of both society and the biosphere.

Members of the Society of American Foresters have a deep and enduring love for the land, and are inspired by the profession's historic traditions, such as Gifford Pinchot's utilitarianism and Aldo Leopold's ecological conscience. In their various roles as practitioners, teachers, researchers, advisers, and administrators, foresters seek to sustain and protect a variety of forest uses and attributes, such as aesthetic values, air and water quality, biodiversity, recreation, timber production, and wildlife habitat.

The purpose of this Code of Ethics is to protect and serve society by inspiring, guiding, and governing members in the conduct of their professional lives. Compliance with the code demonstrates members' respect for the land and their commitment to the long-term management of ecosystems, and ensures just and honorable professional and human relationships, mutual confidence and respect, and competent service to society.

On joining the Society of American Foresters, members assume a special responsibility to the profession and to society by promising to uphold and abide by the following:



Principles and Pledges

1. Foresters have a responsibility to manage land for both current and future generations. We pledge to practice and advocate management that will maintain the long-term capacity of the land to provide the variety of materials, uses, and values desired by landowners and society.
2. Society must respect forest landowners' rights and correspondingly, landowners have a land stewardship responsibility to society. We pledge to practice and advocate forest management in accordance with landowner objectives and professional standards, and to advise landowners of the consequences of deviating from such standards.
3. Sound science is the foundation of the forestry profession. We pledge to strive for continuous improvement of our methods and our personal knowledge and skills; to perform only those services for which we are qualified; and in the biological, physical, and social sciences to use the most appropriate data, methods, and technology.
4. Public policy related to forests must be based on both scientific principles and societal values. We pledge to use our knowledge and skills to help formulate sound forest policies and laws; to challenge and correct untrue statements about forestry; and to foster dialogue among foresters, other professionals, landowners, and the public regarding forest policies.
5. Honest and open communication, coupled with respect for information given in confidence, is essential to good service. We pledge to always present, to the best of our ability, accurate and complete information; to indicate on whose behalf any public statements are made; to fully disclose and resolve any existing or potential conflicts of interest; and to keep proprietary information confidential unless the appropriate person authorizes its disclosure.
6. Professional and civic behavior must be based on honesty, fairness, good will, and respect for the law. We pledge to conduct ourselves in a civil and dignified manner; to respect the needs, contributions, and viewpoints of others; and to give due credit to others for their methods, ideas, or assistance.

The Society of American Foresters' Bylaws specify processes through which a member's violation of the code may lead to reprimand, censure, expulsion from the Society, or other disciplinary action. Any two persons, whether or not SAF members, may charge a member with violation of the code. Such a charge must be made in writing to the SAF President and must refer to the specific Pledges alleged to have been violated.



Adopted by the Society of American Foresters by Member Referendum, November 3, 2000, replacing the code adopted June 23, 1976, as amended November 4, 1986, and November 2, 1992. The 1976 code replaced the code adopted November 12, 1948, as amended December 4, 1971.

About the Society of American Foresters

Background Gifford Pinchot and six other pioneer foresters founded the Society of American Foresters (SAF) in 1900. The Society, with about 18,000 members, is the national organization representing the forestry profession in the United States and includes public and private practitioners, researchers, administrators, educators and forestry students. It is also the accreditation authority for professional forestry education in the United States.

The objectives of the Society are to advance the science, technology, and practice of professional forestry in America, and to use the knowledge and skills of the profession to benefit society. SAF members subscribe to a code of ethics, the foundation for their professional behavior in relations with the land, the public, their employees (including clients), and with each other. Stewardship of the land is the cornerstone of the forestry profession. As such, SAF members advocate and practice land management consistent with ecologically sound principles.

The Society publishes the Journal of Forestry, Forest Science, Southern Journal of Applied Forestry, Northern Journal of Applied Forestry, Western Journal of Applied Forestry, Forestry Source and Proceedings for the national convention.

SAF in Oregon With over 1200 members in 14 chapters throughout the state, the Oregon Society of American Foresters is the largest state affiliate of the national Society. Foresters play a major role in managing Oregon's 30 million acres of forest land. These forests provide a variety of benefits for Oregonians and the nation in the form of wildlife, water, recreation, timber and other forest products.

Through their management of the 19.4 million acres of Oregon's forest capable of growing commercial crops of timber, foresters help contribute to a significant proportion of Oregon's rural economic base. Fifty-one percent of Oregon's timberland is owned by the federal government and 49 percent by non-federal owners. Most federal timberland is now managed primarily for non-timber benefits with limited timber harvesting. Seventy-five percent of the state's timber harvest for the foreseeable future is expected to come from non-federal lands owned by wood products firms (29%), other private landowners (14%), and state and local governments (7%).

The forestry profession has adapted to changing priorities for Oregon's forests. During the early days of economic and community development, the emphasis was on timber production. Today, foresters manage for a rich diversity of forest resources to achieve landowner objectives and meet society's needs and the needs of future generations.

The Policy Process The Society of American Foresters has a responsibility to anticipate, identify and define opportunities, problems and issues related to forest resources. The Society's Forest Policies, approved by referendum, guide positions the Society takes in contributing its professional knowledge to public deliberations on forestry issues.

SAF promotes policies that (1) encourage conservation of, or investment in, forest resources to satisfy future expectations, (2) resolve conflicts about forest uses and forestland allocations to make future investments more secure, (3) promote the equitable distribution of forest benefits to strengthen public support for forest resource conservation, and (4) increase cooperation between and among foresters and forestry institutions throughout the world who are developing mutually beneficial approaches to these challenges.

The Society's position-taking procedure assures analytical, objective and democratic analysis of forestry issues. Interdisciplinary task forces study and prepare reports on resource issues. Task force members represent the various disciplinary and philosophical segments of the forestry profession and are selected for their knowledge about the issues. Position statements draw from task force reports and are reviewed by forest policy and science experts and the Society's governing council before being adopted.

Seven position statements included in this booklet were passed by a vote of the membership of the Oregon Society of American Foresters. The position on Forestry's Role in the Protection of Pacific Salmon Habitat in Forested Watersheds was jointly adopted by the Executive Committee of the Oregon Society, Alaska, Idaho, northern California, southern California, and Washington. The Society encourages members to discuss these issues with interested groups and with one another and to suggest changes that may better reflect public needs and professional knowledge.

For More Information

on these or other issues, visit

[*www.forestry.org*](http://www.forestry.org)

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